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# BOROUGH

OF

MALMESBURY
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# BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1971

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John R. Wray, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Offices: Municipal Offices,

Monkton Hill, Chippenham.

Tel. No. Chippenham 2821.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the

Boroughs of Calne and Chippenham,

and the Rural Districts of

Malmesbury and Calne and Chippenham.

Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council.

School Medical Officer.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

H. Todd, M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. Todd, in addition, carries out the duties of Borough Surveyor.

### SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mrs. V.L. Gregory.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.



The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1971.

The vital statistics are based on a small population and therefore are liable to fluctuate from year to year.

Apart from an outbreak of measles, very little in the way of notifiable disease occurred during the year.

In view of re-organisation of local government and the health services, this will probably be the penultimate report of your Medical Officer of Health. The Report of the Working Party on Medical Administrators (Chairman: Dr. R.B. Hunter), which has recently been published, recommends that there should be a "District Community Physician" employed by the National Health Service, but that by mutual agreement between the local government District Authority and the local Area Health Authority one of these "Community Physicians" should be appointed as adviser on environmental hygiene and communicable disease control to the District Council, and "be directly accountable to it for these matters".

On the previous page you may have noticed the addition of the initials M.F.C.M. after my name; this is because I have been elected a member of the recently formed Faculty of Community Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians.

I would like to thank the Council and its Officers for their help and support during the year.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. WRAY

Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	000	227
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	0 0 0	2,550
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.71	000	932
Number of Council dwellings at 31.12.71	0 0 0	268
Number of applicants for Council dwellings at 31.12.71	0 • 6	60
Rateable value at 1.4.71	0 0 0	£95,084
Penny Rate Product for 1971/72		£ 930

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Birth and Death Rates as compared with other areas.

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population standardised\*)

				Rate:	Death	
			1970	1971	1970	1971
Malmesbury Borough Malmesbury R.D.C. Wiltshire England and Wales	0 0 0	0 0 0	15.4 18.5 17.2 16.0	17.4	14.9 10.7 10.7 11.7	16.9 12.2 10.5 11.6

<sup>\*</sup>Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

#### STILL BIRTHS

Two still births were notified during 1971.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Two deaths of infants under the age of one year occurred.

#### DEATHS

The following deaths were notified during 1971:-

Males:	Females:	Total:
17	29	46

Twenty-eight of these deaths were in persons aged over 65, twenty being persons aged over 75.

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ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH	Males:	Females:	Total:
Under 4 weeks Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1		ı
4 weeks and under 1 year Congenital anomalies	0	1.	1
1 - 4 years			
All other accidents		1	1
25 - 34 years Other malignant neoplasms	<b>=</b>	٦	7
35 - 44 years			αΔg
Other malignant neoplasms Ischaemic heart disease Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1 2	3
45 - 54 years			
Other endocrine etc. diseases Ischaemic heart disease Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1 2	3
55 - 64 years			
Late effects of respiratory T.B. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus Malignant neoplasm, prostate Other endocrine etc. diseases Ischaemic heart disease Cerebrovascular disease Bronchitis and emphysema Other diseases, genito-urinary system			
	6	2	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus Diabetes mellitus Other diseases of nervous system Ischaemic heart disease Cerebrovascular disease All other accidents	1	1 1 1 1	
	3	5	8
75 years and over			
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus Malignant neoplasm, breast Malignant neoplasm, uterus Diabetes mellitus Ischaemic heart disease Other forms of heart disease	2	1 1 2 2 1	
Cerebrovascular disease Other diseases of circulatory system Pneumonia Peptic ulcer	1 1 5	6 1 1	20
Total of all causes:	17	29	46



Heart disease and strokes were the main causes of death.

There were four deaths from lung cancer. Health education on the dangers of smoking is given in all Wiltshire secondary schools.

## INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

In July 1971 the Spanish health authorities notified the World Health Organisation of seven cases of cholera in Zaragoza and later on 7th September, 1971, Spain notified the World Health Organisation of six cases of cholera in Barcelona Province and eight cases in Valencia Province. On 20th September, 1971, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health informed us that two British travellers had developed cholera after returning from holiday in Spain. On 17th September, 1971, airports started notifying me of travellers returning from cholera infected areas in Spain to homes in this area who were without valid cholera certificates. In October there was an outbreak of cholera in Lisbon, Portugal, and we were notified of travellers from there. All the people involved were visited by health inspectors and specimens taken from those with diarrhoea. No cases of cholera were found, but two returning travellers to North Wiltshire were found to be suffering from a salmonella food poisoning infection.

The Infectious Diseases Regulations 1968 enables one to place restrictions on food handlers suffering from suspected enteric diseases, but only those diseases specified in Schedule 5 of the Regulations, which, by not mentioning cholera, specifically excludes it. I immediately took up this point with the British Medical Association, and learnt later that they were recommending to the Department of Health that cholera should be specifically included in these Regulations.

This was an epidemic year for measles; a total of 70 cases were notified. Immunisation against measles is offered to all children in their second year of life.

Two cases of whooping cough were reported, and one case of pulmonary tuberculosis. There were no other notifiable diseases.

In cases of pulmonary tuberculosis the Chest Physician, helped by Health Visitors of the County Council, checks on the family and all contacts. All schoolchildren at secondary school are offered B.C.G. immunisation which protects against tuberculosis.

I am grateful to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health, for the following immunisation statistics carried out in the Borough during 1971:-

	c	Chil 1971	ldren 1970	born 1969	in ye	ars  1967			Others under 16
Primary imms.  completed  during 1971	Diph. Wh. cough Tetanus Measles Polio	31 30 31 30	33 32 33 34 33	10	7	1 6	4		
Reinforcing imms. given in 1971	Diph. Wh. cough Tetanus Polio		14 14 14 13	42 41 42 39	3 3 3 4	20 20 22	32 3 32 32	2 2 2	



Months	Years

Age Group:	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 = 9	9 - 12	1	2 - 4	5 = 15
Vaccinations	СШО	CMD	<b>=</b>	=	10	22	2
Re-vaccinations	dan	=	œ	cn cn	cano	gen	2

\* N.B. Vaccination discontinued as a routine measure in early childhood September 1971.

## WATER SUPPLIES

Other authorities take regular samples from consumers' supply points throughout the district for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory in Bath. They also test for residual chlorine in the water. I receive copies of the Public Analyst's reports on the water from all sources, showing that it does not contain any trace of poisonous metals, and also that it does not dissolve the lead in lead pipes. It is only a certain type of soft water that dissolves lead from lead pipes, and we are fortunate that the water in this area is comparatively hard. People may complain that hard water uses more soap, but there is now good evidence that hard waters are healthier than soft waters. A summary of the facts is given in an article by A.N. Howard in the April 1972 medical journal entitled "Modern Geriatrics" - some of this is worth quoting in full:

"In the United Kingdom, Crawford and her colleagues showed that in 61 County Boroughs of England and Wales with a population of over 80,000 in 1961, the harder the local drinking water and the more calcium it contained, the lower was the death rate in middle and early old age; this was particularly so for cardiovascular mortality. Chemical studies of trace elements in water from consumers' taps showed none at a concentration which could be considered toxic either in towns with very soft or very hard water.

The death rates in Glasgow for cardiovascular disease are about the highest in Britain (654 per 100,000 for people aged 45 - 64 years) and the city has a very soft water supply. Greater London has a very hard drinking water and similar deaths (440 per 100,000) are approximately two-thirds those in Glasgow.

Probably the most interesting report is that provided by Robertson, who has studied the rise in death rate from cardiovascular disease over the last seven years in Scunthorpe, Lincs., where the water supply was artifically softened. Nearby Grimsby has exactly the same water supply, but unsoftened. Scunthorpe has 27% more deaths than Grimsby. Moreover, while death rates are still rising in Scunthorpe they are falling slightly in Grimsby. The local water board have taken the unusual step of doubling the calcium content of the town's water supply and have given up using the water softener.

There is no clear evidence as yet as to what is present or missing in soft water that makes it deleterious."

I am grateful for the following report by the Chief Engineer, Mr. R. Farrage, of the North Wilts. Water Board:-



## Development

During the year under review the Board's new borehole at Holt has been developed and a pumping station constructed. This station is now in operation. A further production borehole has been successfully drilled to the south of Holt Village which, together with the first borehole, has been licensed for abstraction of water up to  $2\frac{t}{4}$  m.g.d.

Further trial boreholes have been sunk near Market Lavington and a production borehole has been drilled at Easterton.

Work on a production borehole at Lacock is in progress.

Consumption				19	70 1971	2
Average Da	ily Consumpt	ion in	million	galls. 8.	76 9.44	-
Metered Su Unmetered	Mar Mar			_	.08 3.29 .68 6.15	

Despite the ever increasing demand for water the Board is still meeting this demand with some reserves.

## Bacteriological Examination of Water

# (a) Samples taken from consumers' supply points

During the year 1,330 samples from consumers' supply points were examined, of these 1,241 were satisfactory, having coliform counts of less than 1; 49 were reported to have coliform counts of 1-2; 40 had coliform counts of 3 or more.

On the occasions when reports of coliform counts were received from the laboratory, investigations and repeated samplings were undertaken and continued until satisfactory reports were received.

## (b) Samples taken from sources

775 samples of water from sources were submitted for examination, 280 samples before treatment was applied to the water and 495 samples after the water had been treated.

## Samples of water before treatment 280 samples were submitted:

Excellent:	Coliform	count	of	less than	1	000	154
Satisfactory:	**	88	**	1 - 3		000	80
Suspicious:	# 8	68	88	4 - 10		000	21
Unsatisfactory:	88	19	18	more than	10	0 0 0	25
•							

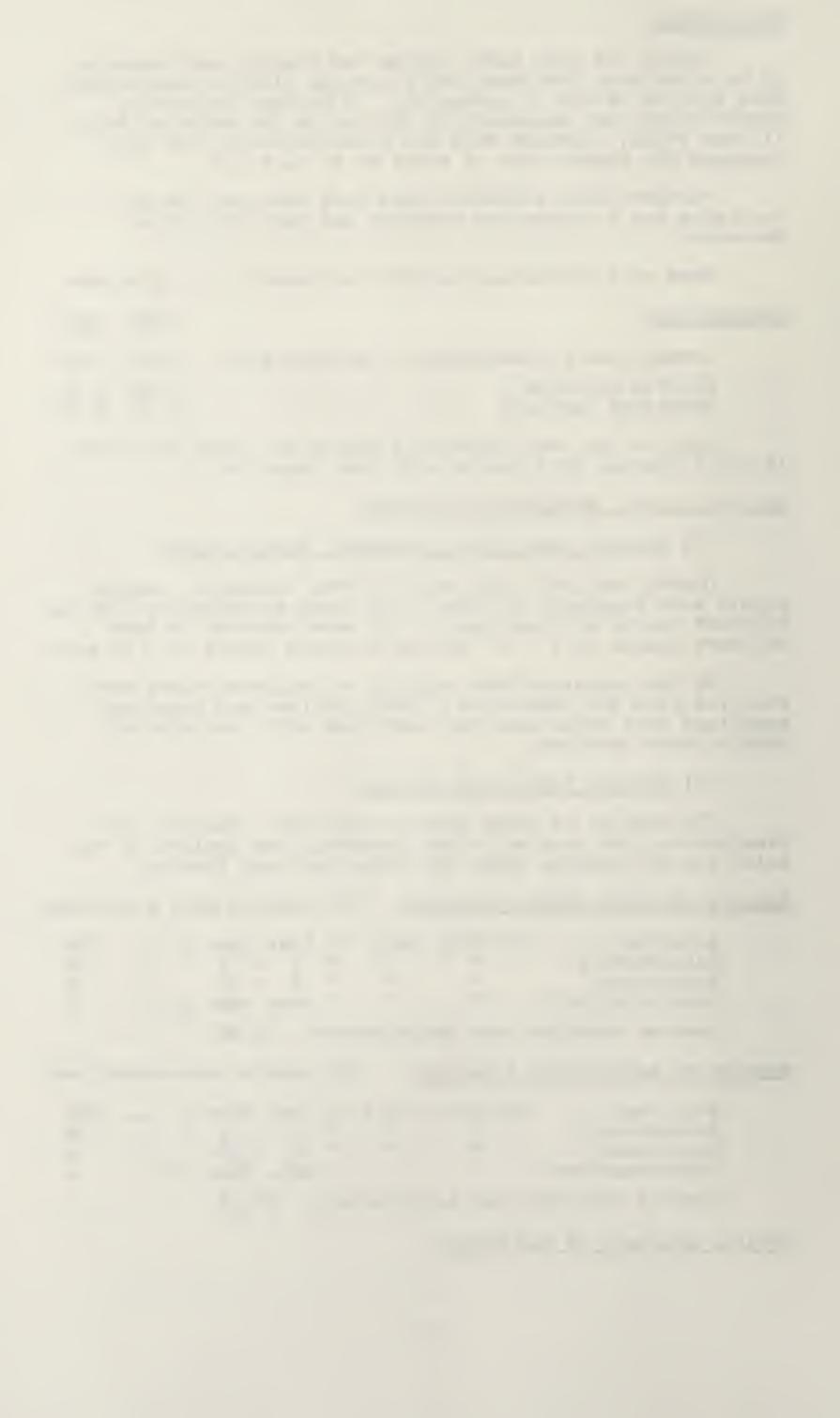
Samples excellent and satisfactory: 83.6%

# Samples of water after treatment 495 samples were submitted:

Excellent:	Coliform	count	of	less	than	1	000	469
Satisfactory:	18	98	80	] -	3		000	18
Suspicious:	9.9	4.8	3.9	4	<b>10</b>		000	4
Unsatisfactory:	#8	18	88-	more	than	10	000	4

Samples excellent and satisfactory: 98.4%

#### Typical Analysis of Raw Waters



	Rodbourne Borehole p.p.m.	Charlton Borehole p.p.m.
Colour	22.9.71 Nil	21.7.71 Nil
Odour pH	Nil 7.3	Nil 7.3
Free CO <sub>2</sub> Chloride Hardness:	25 40	26 18
Carbonate Non-Carbonate Nitrate Nitrogen	250 35 0.6	260 50 2.6
Nitrite Nitrogen Oxygen Absorbed Alb. Nitrogen	Absent 0.10 0.00	0.01 0.10 0.00
Iron Zinc Other Metals	0.03 0.04 Absent	0.04 Absent Absent
Fluoride	0.63	0.38

Chlorination of all sources is practised with the aim of obtaining chlorine residuals at all consumers' points of supply of between 0.1 and 0.3 p.p.m.

The Board continues to exercise supervision of the quality of raw water from all the sources by submitting samples to their Consultant Chemists, the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and any changes in chemical or mineralogical qualities of the water are reported upon by Mr. Gordon Miles, the Principal of those Laboratories.

Fluoride occurs naturally in quantities from 0.38 to 0.75 p.p.m. in the water obtained from the deep borehole sources in the limestone but it is usually absent in the waters obtained from shallow wells and spring sources.

The Board is advised by its Consultant Chemists that none of the waters supplied is plumbo-solvent.

#### OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

These are given in the attached report of the Public Health Inspector.



The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Malmesbury Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Public Health Inspector's section of this report, and in so doing take the opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the advice and assistance afforded to me by Dr. Wray, other Officers of the Council and County Council officials.

## WATER SUPPLY

The water supply continued to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Temporary hardness continues to be a practical problem, but current research may prove it to be beneficial in other directions.

Population served ... ... ... 2,550 Number supplied direct to houses ... 2,510 Number supplied by standpipe ... 40

Fluoride content - less than O.l p.p.m.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new sludge drying plant does not appear to operate to the standards anticipated, but this may of course be attributed to the possibility that the sludge volume per capita is higher than average in this area. Large scale use of sink disposal units could be a vital factor in relation to sludge disposal, apart from the effect on sewers, and I am of the opinion that this is a matter which would repay investigation now rather than waiting until it has become a problem.

The sewerage system gave little trouble except in regard to the surcharging of the northern section of the ring sewer. Few persons were directly affected by this but the Council rightly took the view that this must be investigated and their consulting engineers were asked to investigate and report.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough, and there have not been any for a considerable period of time.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Heat treated milk was not sampled during the year as the surrounding Rural District Council take such samples and the time thus saved was thought to be put to better use.

No raw milk is distributed in the district.



## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960

Type of Shop	No.	No.	No.	No.
		Inspected	Unsatisfactory	Improved
Grocers '	11	3	=	=
Butchers	5	3	Grands Grands	<b>=</b>
Greengrocers	2	2		cco
Cafes and Restaurants	5	3	<b>e</b> :::	<b>-</b>
Hotels	5	2	Grands	<b>(2)</b>
Public Houses	4	3	=	=
Off Licences	2	1	<b>=</b>	(CC)
Bread and Cake Shops	2	1	<b></b>	=
Wet Fish Shop	1	1	1	7
Sweet Shops	4	2	(m)	con
Fish and Chip Shops	0	1	1	1

# POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry establishments in the Borough.

## MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963

Meat inspection is carried out at one private slaughterhouse to 100% of the kill, which is achieved by the valuable co-operation of a local firm of veterinary surgeons.

No big changes to the slaughterhouses have occurred during the year.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Inspected by Veterinary Surgeons	1052	54	646	2700
Inspected by Public Health Inspector	1163	83	664	2345
Total:	2215	137	1310	5045
Carcases condemned % animals affected	7	6 4.38	0.08	0.18
Parts condemned % animals affected	410 18.51	8 5.84	142 10.84	564 11.18
Parts condemned for T.B. % animals affected	<b>~</b>	ස ස	<b>6</b> 23	39 0.77
Parts condemned for C.B. % animals affected	10 0.45	 	-	em
Carcases refrigerated	een	<b>=</b>	=	<del></del>

# OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

8 premises received general inspection during the year. 3 accidents were reported and investigated.

# CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one site for 12 residential caravans which produced no problems during the year.



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Every scheme to reduce the time spent on collection proved to be abortive as the volume of refuse increased and absorbed any time gains. Disposal is still to the Rural District Council tip at Somerford.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

I summarise below the details requested in Circular 1/69.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Premises	Number on Register	Number of Written Occupiers Insp's. Notices Prosecuted			
، موسار شديد موسار دور الدور الد	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
West Control of the second	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities					
2)	Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	6	***	-	
3)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	_	<b>dia</b>	-	
	Total:	18	6	-	040	

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
 (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

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<u>Particulars</u>	Found	Remedied		By H.M.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	quo	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	***	-	4000
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	_	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	_	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	_	-	-	4000	99
b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	GOM.	60
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		-	-	· <b>-</b>	
Total:	1	1	qias	_	

There are no Outworkers registered in this district. This item concludes my section of this Annual Report.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

H. TODD

Public Health Inspector.

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